

FORECAST OF UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES -- MARCH 2014

90 Years Ago – 1924

March 1: Donald K. (Deke) Slayton born, Sparta, WI.

80 Years Ago - 1934

March 9: Yuri Gagarin born, Gzhast, Rayon, Smolensk Oblast, USSR.

55 Years Ago – 1959

March 3: Pioneer 4 (Juno II AM-14) launched, 12:10 a.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla. First U.S. sun-orbiter, a US-IGY space probe. First successful flyby of the Moon.

March 10: First captive flight of X-15, Dryden Flight Research Center (DFRF), CA.

45 Years Ago – 1969

March 3-13: Apollo 9 launched by Saturn V (SA-504), 11:00 a.m., EST, KSC, astronauts James A. McDivitt, David R. Scott, and Russell L. Schweickart, into earth orbit.

First crew assisted flight test of lunar module.

First launch of complete Apollo configuration [Saturn V vehicle, CSM, and LM].

First docking in space of CSM and LM.

First firing of LM ascent and descent engines in space with astronauts aboard.

First separation, rendezvous & redocking of two astronaut occupied spacecraft.

First EVA by an astronaut completely free of spaceship life support equipment (Schweickart, LM Pilot).

First mission in which the use of names for spacecraft was again authorized.

First test of Portable Life Support System in space.

March 21: Thomas O. Paine took office as third NASA Administrator.

March 26: Meteor 1 launched by Vostok rocket, 1229 UTC, Plesetsk, USSR.

March 27: Mariner 7 launched by Atlas-Centaur, 5:22 p.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

40 Years Ago - 1974

March 5: First X-24B supersonic flight, John A. Manke pilot, Dryden Flight Research Facility (DFRF), CA.

March 8: Miranda (UK X-4) launched by Scout, 10:22 p.m., EDT, Vandenberg AFB.

March 29: Mariner 10, First Mercury Flyby.

35 Years Ago - 1979

March 5: Voyager 1 passes Jupiter, at 278,000 km, returns photos and data.

March 8: Space Shuttle *Columbia* delivered to NASA, EAFB, CA from Palmdale, CA.

March 24: First time a Space Shuttle was transported to its launching base when *Columbia* arrived at Kennedy Space Center.

30 Years Ago - 1984

March 1: Landsat 5 launched by Delta, 9:59 a.m., PST, WSMC. UOSAT-2 secondary payload.

March 5: Intelsat 5 F8 launched by Ariane 1 rocket from Kourou, French Guiana at 00:50:03 UTC.

25 Years Ago - 1989

March 13: STS-29 (Space Shuttle *Discovery*) launched, 9:57 a.m., EST, KSC. Crew: Michael L. Coats, John E. Blaha, James P. Bagian, James F. Buchli, and Robert C. Springer. Launched TDRS-4 same day. Landed Edwards Air Force Base (EAFB), CA, March 18, at 9:36 a.m., EST. Mission duration: 4 days, 23 hours, and 39 minutes. The deployment of TDRS-4 marked completion of the TDRS system. In June the system was declared operational following completion of a switchover involving TDRS 1, which was moved to 79 degrees west longitude, to serve as backup to TDRS-4 and TDRS-3, also known as TDRS-East and TDRS-west, respectively.

20 Years Ago – 1994

March 4: STS-62 (Space Shuttle *Columbia*) launched, 8:53 a.m. EST, KSC. Crew: John H. Casper, Andrew M. Allen, Pierre J. Thuot, Charles D. Gemar, and Marsha S. Ivins. Carried United States Microgravity Payload (USMP-2) and Office of Aeronautics and Space Technology (OAST-2). Landed KSC, March 18 at 8:10 a.m. EST. Mission time: 13 days, 23 hours, and 17 minutes.

15 Years Ago – 1999

March 5: WIRE (Wide-field InfraRed Explorer), designed to measure infrared sources, was launched by a Pegasus-XL rocket released from a L-1011 cargo plane off the coast of Vandenberg AFB at 03:00 UTC. Soon after launch the payload deployed prematurely and become inoperable.

March 28: Sea Launch Demo, a multinational, geosynchronous dummy "spacecraft" was launched at 01:30 UTC by a Zenit 3L rocket from the floating platform, Odyssey (which was an oil drilling platform in the North Sea) on true-equatorial Pacific Ocean at 01:30 UTC. The Sea Launch Company is jointly owned by private companies (Russian Energia 25%, American Boeing 40%, Norwegian Kvarner 20%, and Ukrainian Yuzhnoe/Yuzhmash 15%)

10 Years Ago – 2004

March 2: Rosetta, a European (ESA) cometary probe launched by an Ariane 5 rocket from Kourou in French Guiana at 07:17 UTC. Sometime in 2014, it will orbit around a comet named 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko after releasing a lander named Philae.

5 Years Ago – 2009

March 7: Kepler astronomy probe launched by a Delta 2 rocket from Cape Canaveral at 10:49 p.m. EST. Kepler's mission is to search for Earth-sized planets around other stars by looking for brightness variations in over 100,000 stars in the Cygnus-Lyra region.

March 15: STS-119 (Space Shuttle *Discovery*) launched, 7:43 p.m. EDT, KSC. Crew: Lee Archambault, Tony Antonelli, Joseph Acaba, John Phillips, Steve Swanson, Richard Arnold and Koichi Wakata. *Discovery* carried the final set of solar arrays also known as the starboard 6 or S6 truss segment to the ISS. Landed March 28, 3:14 p.m. EDT, KSC. Mission time: 12 days, 19 hours, 29 minutes.

March 26: Soyuz-TMA 14 launched from Baikonur cosmodrome by a Soyuz-FG rocket at 11:49 UTC. Crew: It carried a Russian cosmonaut (Gennady I. Padalka), an American astronaut (Michael R. Barratt) and a space tourist (Charles Simonyi) to the International Space Station. It docked with the *Zvezda* module of the ISS at 13:05 UT on 28 March 2009. The two astronauts formed part of the ISS Expedition 19 crew.